

Teaneck SUBURBANITE

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JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Bush nominates Gen. Peter Pace

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Of Suburbanite

President Bush last Friday nominated a Teaneck High School graduate, Marine Gen. Peter Pace, to be the next chairman of the U.S. military's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Bush announced in a Roosevelt Room ceremony at the White House that if confirmed by the Senate, Pace, 59, would succeed Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, whose retirement is set for Sept. 30.

Pace, whom Pentagon officials say has played a key role in the war on terrorism, has been vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"He knows the job well," Bush said of the prestigious Teaneck native.

"To the American people, the Marine is shorthand for can-do and I'm counting on Pete Pace to bring the Marine spirit to these new responsibilities."

Pace is the first Marine to be selected for the position and, pending his confirmation by the Senate, will be the second vice chairman to rise to chairman. Myers, who served as chairman for four years, was the first to attain such a promotion.

Pace was born in Brooklyn but raised in Teaneck where he graduated high school in 1963. A 1967 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he holds a master's degree in business administration from George Washington University. He also attended Harvard University for the Senior Executives in National and International Security

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President Bush on his nomination of Teaneck native Peter Pace for chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

ty program.

Pace served as a rifle platoon leader in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 but returned "without a scratch." He also served in Korea in 1987 and as deputy commander of Marine Forces and deputy commander of the Joint Task Force in Somalia between 1992 and 1994.

From 1997 to 2000 Pace served as the commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces in the Atlantic, Europe and South. He was promoted to general in 2000 and served as the commander in chief of the United States Southern Command until he became vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs shortly after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Pace returned to Teaneck in May 2003 to speak at the township's Memorial Day Celebration.

"This town gave me and my family many gifts, all the things that we take for granted," he said to a

STAFF PHOTOS BY DANIELLE P. RICHARDS/THE RECORD

President Bush nominated Teaneck's Peter Pace for chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Above, members of the township council and patriotic advisory board greet Gen. Pace during a 2003 Memorial Day ceremony. At left, Gen. Pace exchanges hellos with members of the Gooney Bird Detachment of the Marine Corps League.

PACE

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crowd of nearly 300.

Mayor Jacqueline Kates, with whom Pace graduated from high school, expressed her full-fledged confidence in Pace in his ascension to the nation's top military post.

"I am absolutely delighted that the president has nominated General Pace for this position. It brings

great honor to our community," said Kates, who added that when Pace returned to Teaneck in 2003, he said there was no other place in the world where he could have had a better upbringing.

At the White House ceremony, Pace said that attaining the president's nomination was an "incredible moment" for him, but that he knew "formidable" challenges lay ahead. According to a Reuter's newswire, Pace will face "daunting

problems at the Pentagon as U.S. budget deficits clash with the rising cost of warships, fighter ships and other high-tech programs planned to replace aging Cold War weaponry."

Bush nominated Navy Adm. Edmund Giambastiani to replace Pace as vice chairman.

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